

Sustainable Monocacy Commission meeting
Thursday, July 22, 2021 (virtual meeting via Webex)

Members present: Bill Allen, Andy Celmer, Charles Eirkson, Gary Magnuson, Matt Moran, Lonnie Ropp, Kim Stewart.

Members absent: Councilmember Jerry Donald, Alderman Roger Wilson, Peter Sicilia, Glenn Dunham

County Staff: Tim Goodfellow, Kimberly Golden Brandt, Kathy Mitchell

Guest Speakers: Denny Remsburg, Frederick & Catocin Soil Conservation District (SCD) (recently retired), Andrew Ford, Assistant County Attorney

Chair Bill Allen opened the video meeting with a review of the agenda.

Charles Eirkson mentioned that the word “be” is missing from the first paragraph on the 2nd page of the May 2021 meeting minutes. Andy Celmer motioned to make this correction in the May 2021 meeting minutes; Charles Eirkson seconded the motion. Vote: 7 in favor; 2 absent (Dunham, Sicilia)

Denny Remsburg presented an overview of Agricultural Best Management Practices, and the various state and federal programs that exist for farmers to install practices, devices, or structures for farm operations and water quality protection. Approximately 188,000 acres in agricultural production exist in Frederick County per the 2017 Ag. Census. Mr. Remsburg briefly described the cover crop program, transport and soil injection of manure, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and the Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans, also referred to as ‘Conservation Plans.’ Mr. Remsburg also discussed the transfer of Conservation Plans when a property is sold, the percentage of participation in programs, the sequence of implementing Conservation Plans. Bill Allen repeated that the SCD has many ‘carrots’ to apply to producers to encourage and incentivize good agricultural practices. Mr Remsburg stated that Heather Hutchinson is the new District Manager of the FCSCD.

Andrew Ford presented the Frederick County Ethics Ordinance and its application to the role, duties, and membership issues related to the SMC. Conflicts of interest and the appearance of a conflict of interest were discussed. Mr. Ford stated that the SMC’s role of advisement and recommendation-making makes it unlikely that conflicts of interest would arise among the SMC members, but that the Frederick County Ethics Commission will issue an opinion or answer questions related to an action or decision by SMC members.

Tim reviewed the draft Rules of Procedures that incorporated some changes from the May 2021 meeting. Kathy Mitchell suggested additional edits. Lonnie Ropp motioned to delay a full discussion and vote on the Rules of Procedures until the next meeting. Andy Celmer seconded motion. Vote: 7 in favor; 2 absent (Dunham, Silicia).

Matt Moran reviewed the latest version of the logo that he is creating for the SMC, and will bring a final version to the next meeting.

The SMC agreed to meet in August, which will include a tour of the 27-acre tree planting on the County-owned property at the northwest quadrant of I-270 and the Monocacy River. The August meeting will also include a review and discussion of the recommendations contained in the 2019 River Management Plan.

There was no public comment.

Andy Celmer motioned to adjourn the meeting; Charles Erikson seconded motion. Vote: 7 in favor; 2 absent (Dunham, Silicia).

Submitted by Tim Goodfellow